



U.S. Department of Justice

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**Press Release
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**GUILTY PLEA IN
MAIL FRAUD / BANK FRAUD SCHEME**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE - United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Peter Zegarac, Inspector in Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Boston Division, announced that **HARANAKK DINGLE**, 30, of Bronx, New York and Lawrence, Massachusetts, pleaded guilty yesterday to a two-count indictment charging him with mail fraud and bank fraud. **DINGLE** was indicted by a federal grand jury last April for operating a scheme in which stolen checks were altered and then deposited into an account at Citizens Bank. The funds were then withdrawn from the account before the fraud was discovered.

At a hearing before U.S. District Judge Joseph DiClerico, **DINGLE** admitted that he knowingly deposited the bogus checks into an account at Citizens Bank that he opened with an initial deposit of ten dollars. He thereafter deposited altered checks totaling over \$33,000. The money was then withdrawn in the course of numerous withdrawals from ATM machines and Citizens Bank branches in Salem, New Hampshire and Andover, Lawrence and Methuen, Massachusetts. The altered checks were originally written in small amounts and were removed from the United States mails before reaching the intended recipients in Windham, New Hampshire.

Commenting on the case, U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono stated: "We will continue to do all we can to prosecute anyone who perpetrates bank fraud or mail fraud in New Hampshire. We will also continue to work with our law enforcement agencies and our banking community to protect the public against these crimes. I am especially pleased with the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Massachusetts law enforcement agencies which conducted the investigation necessary to bring this defendant to justice."

DINGLE will be sentenced on December 7, 2005 at 9:30 a.m., when he faces a maximum prison sentence of 30 years and substantial fines. The investigation was conducted by the **U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Massachusetts State Police, Lawrence, Massachusetts Police Department** and the **Massachusetts Identity Theft Financial Crimes Task Force**. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Gunnison.